AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for the preparation of MDCK cells for use in the production of at least one virus, said method being discontinuous and comprising:

a) culturing MDCK cells that are attached to a substrate to form a preproduction batch,

b) dividing the cells of the preproduction batch into a first part that is approximately 80-90% of the cells and a second part that is approximately 10-20% of the cells,

c) employing said first part for the preparation of at least one production batch for the production of at least one virus,

d) employing said second part as a seed for the preparation of at least one subsequent preproduction batch,

e) optionally culturing the cells of the subsequent preproduction batch to obtain a greater cell population,

f) employing a first portion of the cells of the subsequent preproduction batch for the preparation of at least one subsequent production batch for the production of at least one virus,

wherein the cells of the at least one production batch of c) have a different passage number than the cells of the at least one subsequent production batch of f), and

wherein the passage number of each production batch is between master cell bank and extended cell bank,

g) optionally repeating b) to f), wherein the repeating comprises obtaining a second portion of the cells of the subsequent preproduction batch of d) or e),

optionally culturing the second portion to obtain a greater cell population, and

using the second portion for the preproduction batch of b).

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1 wherein:

a) said first part is transferred for the preparation of the at least one production batch, and

b) said second part is transferred to be used as a seed for the preparation of the at least one subsequent preproduction batch.

3-6. (Canceled).

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein a first preproduction batch is prepared from a working seed stock by at least one passage.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 2, wherein a first preproduction batch is prepared from a working seed stock by at least one passage.

9.-10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 2, wherein the cells are released from said substrate prior to each transfer step.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 11, wherein the substrate comprises particulate matter or a solid support.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 12, wherein the solid support comprises hollow fibers or micro-carriers or macro-carriers in suspension.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 11, wherein the cells are embedded in a carrier.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 14, wherein the carrier is a micro-carrier.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 11, wherein the cells are released from said substrate with a proteolytic enzyme.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 16, wherein the proteolytic enzyme is trypsin.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 16, wherein the cells are treated with PBS and/or EDTA prior to exposure to the proteolytic enzyme.

19.- 22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the cells are parked at a certain passage number by exposure to an ambient temperature ranging from 17 to 32 degrees C.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 23, wherein said parked cells are revitalised to log growth by raising the temperature and changing the culture media.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the cells are frozen at a temperature of less than -80 degrees C in bulk, and thawed prior to use.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) A method for the preparation of MDCK cells for use in the production of at least one virus, said method being discontinuous and comprising:

a) culturing MDCK cells that are attached to a substrate to form a preproduction batch, and

b) forming at least one first production batch and at least one second production batch from the cells of the preproduction batch,

wherein the cells of the at least one first production batch have a passage number different from the cells of the at least one second production batch, and

wherein the passage number of each production batch is between master cell bank and extended cell bank.

28. (New) The method according to Claim 27 wherein:

a) a part of the cells of the preproduction batch are transferred for the preparation of the at least one production batch, and

b) a part of the cells of the preproduction batch are transferred to be used as a seed for the preparation of the at least one subsequent preproduction batch.

29. (New) The method according to Claim 27, wherein a first preproduction batch is prepared from a working seed stock by at least one passage.

30. (New) The method according to Claim 28, wherein a first preproduction batch is prepared from a working seed stock by at least one passage.

31. (New) The method according to Claim 28, wherein the cells are released from said substrate prior to each transfer step.

32. (New) The method according to Claim 31, wherein the substrate comprises particulate matter or a solid support.

33. (New) The method according to Claim 32, wherein the solid support comprises hollow fibers or micro-carriers or macro-carriers in suspension.

34. (New) The method according to Claim 31, wherein the cells are embedded in a carrier.

35. (New) The method according to Claim 34, wherein the carrier is a micro-carrier.

36. (New) The method according to Claim 31, wherein the cells are released from said substrate with a proteolytic enzyme.

37. (New) The method according to Claim 36, wherein the proteolytic enzyme is trypsin.

38. (New) The method according to Claim 36, wherein the cells are treated with PBS and/or EDTA prior to exposure to the proteolytic enzyme.